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Peace Day in the Schools.

The Secretary of the American Peace Society, acting under the authority of the Board of Directors, has sent the following letter to the Superintendents of Public Instruction of all the States and Territories:

FEBRUARY 16, 1907.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:

Dear Sir: A year ago a letter was sent you from this office, as to the other State Superintendents of Public Instruction, inviting your coöperation in securing the observance of the 18th of May, the anniversary of the opening of the Hague Conference in 1899, as Peace Day in the public schools.

The responses received all expressed sincere sympathy with the object in view, namely, the emphasizing of the blessings of peace, the practicability of arbitration in the settlement of disputes, and the duty of cultivating sentiments of genuine respect and friendship towards other nations.

In six States — Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey, Ohio and Kansas — the Superintendents of Public Instruction promptly took the matter up, and in a letter addressed to the superintendents and teachers of the State recommended the observance of the day by suitable exercises in the schools. The result was that in many cities and towns of these States the day was appropriately observed, either by exercises by the pupils themselves or by brief addresses by teachers or speakers from the neighborhood. Other State superintendents expressed their approval, and their purpose to coöperate hereafter. In a few cases superintendents did not think it desirable to suggest the addition of another special day to those already observed.

In renewing this year the request for the observance of the day, we venture to suggest that, in view of the rapid progress of the International Peace Movement and of the nations towards unity and friendly coöperation, there is no subject more worthy than this to be strongly and frequently impressed upon the minds of the youth. What the children in the schools are made to-day, that not only the nation but the world will be to-morrow. The high duty of our country to humanity must not be overlooked.

The experience of the schools the past year proves that the pupils quickly respond to appeals in behalf of humanity and universal benevolence, often with real enthusiasm. An hour, or even half an hour, devoted to this subject is all that is suggested. This will not interfere materially with the regular school exercises, and the new spirit aroused will often compensate many times over for the time used.

The American Peace Society is glad to place its literature, at a merely nominal price, at the service of superintendents and teachers who may desire to use it in making preparation for the day.

Hoping that you may see your way this year to recommend the observance of the 18th of May (or the preceding Friday, as the 18th is Saturday) in the schools of your State, I am, on behalf of the Board of Directors,

Yours very sincerely,

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD,

Secretary.

Protests Against the Overshadowing Militarism of the Jamestown Program.

Episcopal Bishops' Protest.

The fact that the triennial meeting of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Jamestown, Va., and the celebration of the ter-centennial of its establishment in America coincides with the coming national Exposition there, furnishes an occasion and perhaps creates a duty for the expression of a criticism upon the proposed program of the Exposition by the bishops of the church — ministers of the gospel of peace.

In common with many others throughout the country, we have been surprised and shocked at the transformation of the program, which has now gone so far as only too fully to warrant the announcement which is made that the Exposition will be primarily a military and naval celebration. That an international military and naval celebration was to have conspicuous place in the Exposition's program, as provided for by Congress in 1905, was well known, and may have been conventionally proper; but the purpose to make the Exposition "the greatest military spectacle the world has ever seen" was not known, was not avowed, and has clearly been a gradually-evolving purpose, whose carrying out as now so elaborately detailed in the Exposition's official organ and advertised throughout the country can only work immense mischief to the country and to the world.

The present program is utterly different in its order and proportions from that given when the plan of the Exposition was first submitted to the public, when the various States were asked for and granted large financial support to insure its success. We are unwilling to believe that many of our States would, with knowledge of the predominant features of the present program, in which an amount double the government's total original grant to the Exposition is to be devoted to military pageant alone, have made such appropriations. We are confident that such a plan as that now announced, calculated to stir up the fever of military excitement and emulation in our people at a time when that is precisely what we should all most earnestly coöperate to discourage, cannot command the approval of the serious and thoughtful citizens of the Republic.

We are glad to express our appreciation of the many useful, educational and industrial features in the Exposition's program. But no usefulness of these can compensate for the harm involved in the overshadowing military features now outlined. The primacy of these features, in our judgment, makes the present plan of the Exposition discordant with the character of our own religious commemoration at Jamestown, incongruous with the historic event which is its occasion, unworthy of this peaceful American Republic, and a gross anachronism at a time when our own nation is to unite with the nations of the world in deliberations in behalf of the supplanting of the hoary wrongs and vanities of war by the rational and worthy methods of international justice. We solemnly protest against it.

Francis Key Brooke, Bishop of Oklahoma and Indian Territory; Ellison Capers, Bishop of South Carolina; Joseph Blount Cheshire, Bishop of North Carolina;